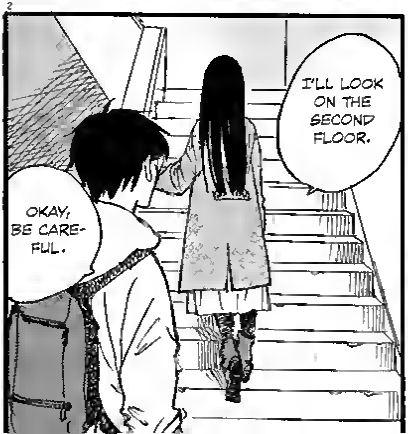
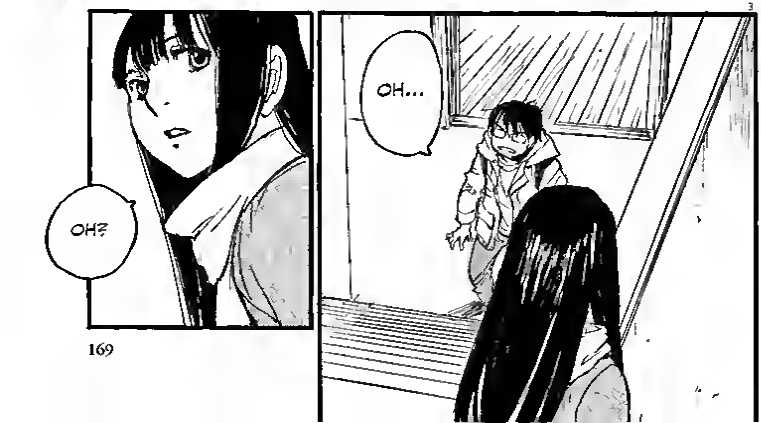
FILE-15: The Architecture Students #5

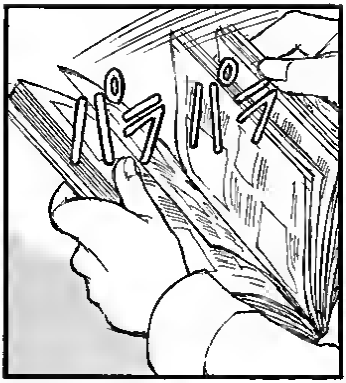
IF HE REALLY DID HIDE IT, THEN IT WAS PROBABLY PUT SOMEWHERE IT WOULDN'T BE FOUND EASILY.
THERE'S NO BOOKCASES ANYWHERE. THE OTHER ROOMS ARE ALL EMPTY TOO.

IF NOBODY KNEW ABOUT THE SKETCHBOOK, THEN IT MIGHT BE THAT NOBODY LOOKED FOR IT.
LET'S SEARCH WHERE WE CAN.

STILL. SIXTY YEARS WITHOUT EVER BEING FOUND?
MAYBE HE HID IT IN THE CEILING? OR UNDER THE FLOOR-BOARDS?
BUT IN THAT CASE IT'S NOT EXACTLY LIKE WE CAN FIND IT WITH WHAT WE HAVE.


I'LL LOOK ON THE SECOND FLOOR.
OKAY, BE CARE-FUL.


OH...
OH?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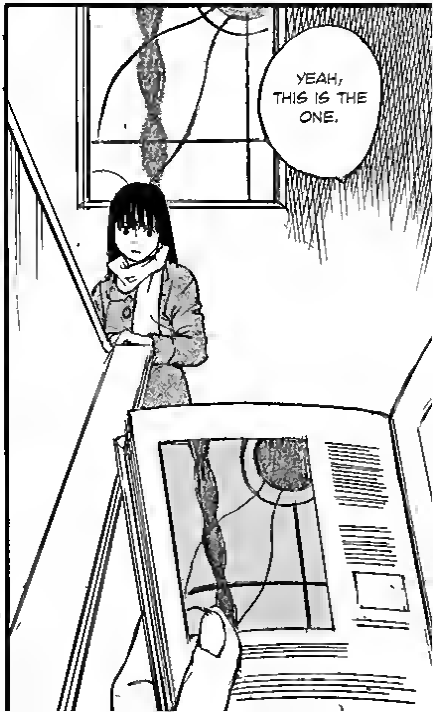
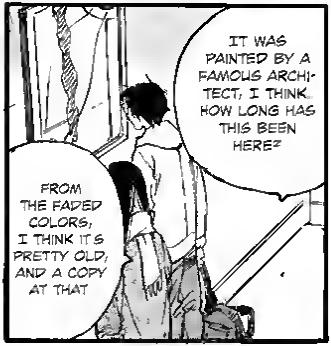
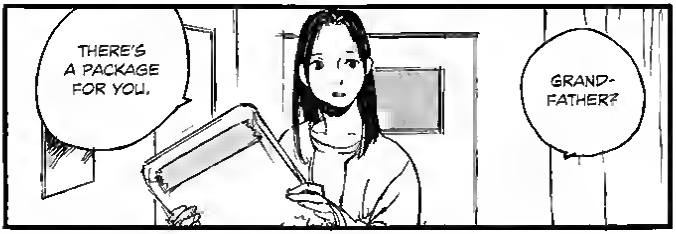
THAT PAINTING!
I THINK I SAW IT IN THE BOOK THAT MR. HIYAMA GAVE ME...

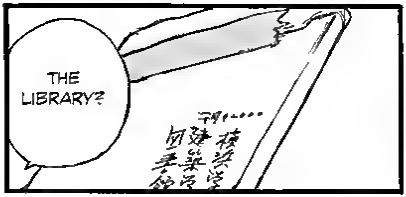
WHAT?


YEAH, THIS IS THE ONE.


IT WAS PAINTED BY A FAMOUS ARCHITECT, I THINK. HOW LONG HAS THIS BEEN HERE?
FROM THE FADED COLORS, I THINK IT'S PRETTY OLD, AND A COPY AT THAT

THIS BUILDING WAS CLOSED DOWN ABOUT FORTY YEARS AGO...
AND IF IT'S BEEN HANGING HERE SINCE THEN, OR MAYBE EVEN BEFORE THEN...
MAYBE...?
AACK!
OH NO!
OH.


THERE'S A PACKAGE FOR YOU.
GRAND-FATHER?


THE LIBRARY?

FROM WHO?
IT'S FROM THE UNIVERSITY, BUT THERE'S NO NAME WRITTEN ON IT.

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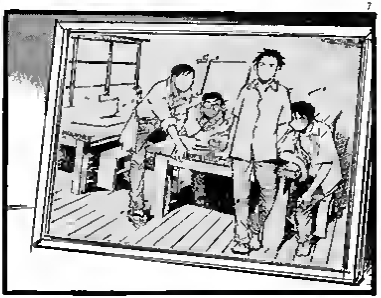
DRAWING

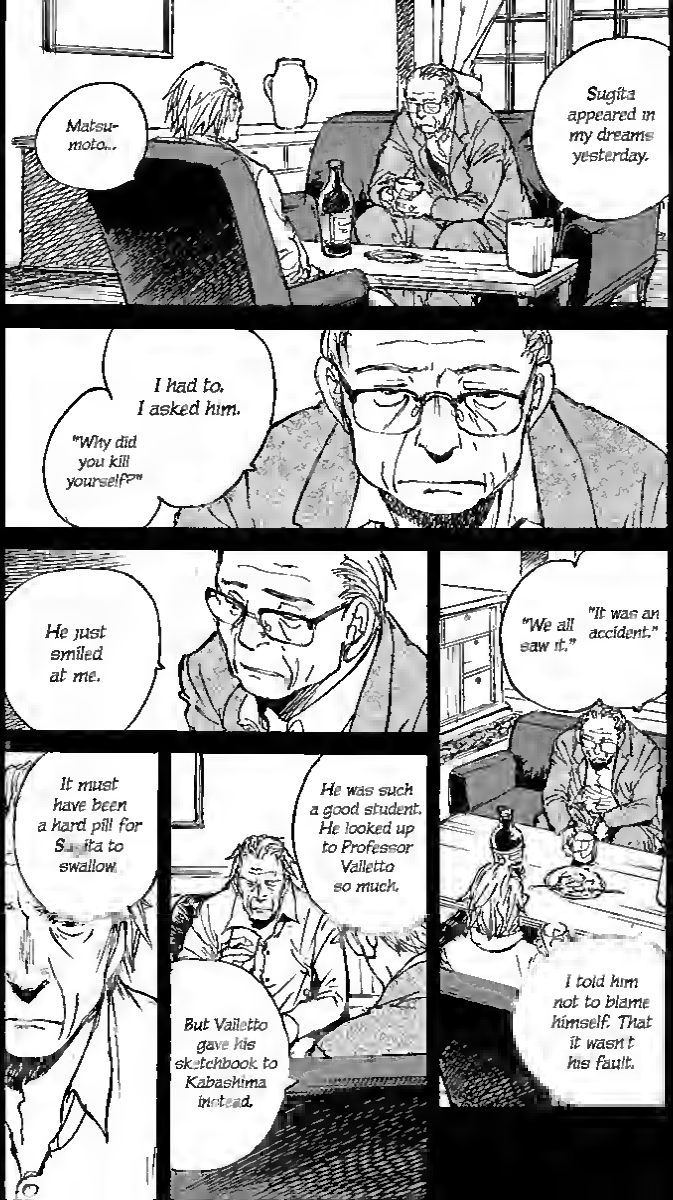
Valletto

A SKETCH-BOOK...?

VALLETTO...

I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT THOSE DAYS LATELY.




Matsumoto...
Sugita appeared in my dreams yesterday.
"Why did you kill yourself?"
I had to. I asked him.
He just smiled at me.
"It was an accident."
"We all saw it."
I told him not to blame himself. That it wasn't his fault.
It must have been a hard pill for Sugita to swallow.
He was such a good student. He looked up to Professor Valletto so much.
But Valletto gave his sketchbook to Kabashima instead.

Sugita! Kabashima!
Do you...
Do you really think it was just an accident?
Kabashima, the professor gave you his sketchbook!

Yes, it was just an accident
Yes...
DO YOU THINK YOU KNOW WHO SENT IT?
SEND THIS TO KABASHIMA'S BROTHER. YOSHIO, I THINK HIS NAME WAS
MR. SUGITA?
BUT HE PASSED AWAY A LONG TIME AGO...
...
IT WAS SUGITA.

HIS BROTHER?
HE SHOULD BE IN MY ADDRESS BOOK. LOOK FOR "SENATOR KABASHIMA."
I'LL WRITE A LETTER.

NOW...
NOW IT'S FINALLY ALL OVER, ISN'T IT?

A week later,
Mr. Hiyama
passed away

WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT, IT'S KIND OF HARD TO BELIEVE, ISN'T IT?
WHAT'RE THE ODDS THAT MR HIYAMA WOULD GIVE ME BACK JUST THE RIGHT BOOK ONE THAT MY GRANDFATHER HAD LENT HIM?

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IT'S ALMOST AS THOUGH MY GRANDPA'S THE ONE WHO HELPED ME...

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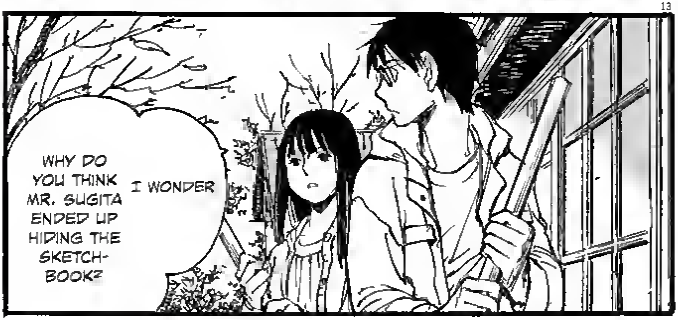
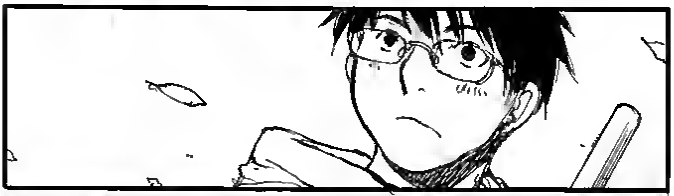

I WONDER WHY DO YOU THINK MR. SUGITA ENDED UP HIDING THE SKETCH-BOOK?

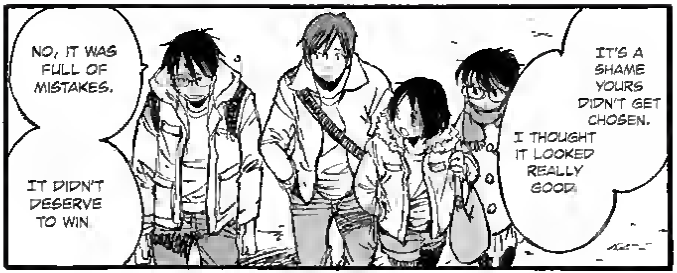
THERE MUST HAVE BEEN A LOT OF THOUGHTS RUNNING THROUGH HIS HEAD
MAYBE HE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO HIMSELF?
WELL, I DON'T KNOW WELL MYSELF,
BUT MAYBE HE FELT LIKE HE DIDN'T WANT TO PASS IT ON TO MR KABASHIMA'S RELATIVES.
BUT AT THE SAME TIME HE DIDN'T DESERVE TO HAVE IT HIMSELF.
MR. HIYAMA KEPT THE SECRET TO THE END.
IT MUST HAVE PAINED HIM SO MUCH...
I'M SURE IT WAS.
IT MUST HAVE WEIGHED HEAVILY ON THE LIBRARY ITSELF, TOO.

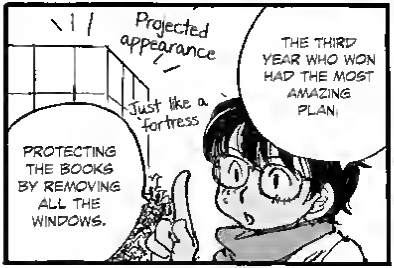
IT KEPT WATCH OVER THE STUDENTS WHO PASSED THROUGH IT OVER THE YEARS, SMART PEOPLE WHO STUDIED HARD LIKE MR. HIYAMA AND HIS FRIENDS
I KNOW THAT IT MUST HAVE BEEN A PLACE WHERE THE STUDENTS FELT AT EASE.

I KNOW YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DESIGN A LIBRARY LIKE THAT, TOO.
AND I KNOW...

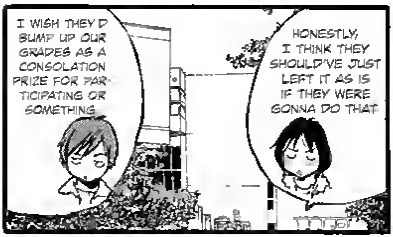


For the first time in my life, using the tools my father had used,
I put the plans in my head down onto paper.
Her words were simple, but they spurred me to action.
Like they'd broken down some bastion of reluctance inside me.


NO, IT WAS FULL OF MISTAKES.
IT DIDN'T DESERVE TO WIN.
IT'S A SHAME YOURS DIDN'T GET CHOSEN.
I THOUGHT IT LOOKED REALLY GOOD!


Projected appearance
Just like a fortress
THE THIRD YEAR WHO WON HAD THE MOST AMAZING PLAN!
PROTECTING THE BOOKS BY REMOVING ALL THE WINDOWS.

SAME GOES FOR YOU, LARI.
I JUST HAVE TO GRIN AND BEAR IT.


I WISH THEY'D BUMP UP OUR GRADES AS A CONSOLATION PRIZE FOR PARTICIPATING OR SOMETHING.
HONESTLY, I THINK THEY SHOULD'VE JUST LEFT IT AS IS IF THEY WERE GONNA DO THAT.

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It's okay!
IT'S A REAL SHAME, NIWA.
UMM... NO, I'M FINE, REALLY.
YOU'LL GET IT NEXT TIME.
DON'T LET IT GET YOU DOWN.
Ack

HONESTLY, I WAS A LITTLE WORRIED.
IF YOU WON THAT CONTEST,
YOU COULD HAVE LEFT US BEHIND TO GO TO A MORE FAMOUS PLACE, YOU KNOW?

Left-overs from Christ-mas
PITY PARTY, LITERALLY.
WHAT'S EVEN GOING ON HERE?
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ACTUALLY, ONE OF OUR CONTRACTS JUST GOT CANCELED, TOO.
C'mon, drown your sorrows with drink
LAYING IT ON A BIT THICK, AREN'T YOU?
WHATEVER EXCUSE WE CAN GET TO DRINK, WORKS FOR ME

THAT'S WHY YOU WANT ME?!
GOOD. WE NEED YOUR MODEL CONSTRUCTION SKILLS, AFTER ALL.
...I WOULDN'T DO THAT.
I BROUGHT OUT THE KOTATSU.
IT'S BEEN GETTING COLD THESE DAYS. PLEASE, COME IN.

NO, IT'S OKAY. I JUST CAME TO TELL YOU THE RESULTS.
SORRY FOR INTERRUPTING YOUR WORK.
OH!
OH?

OH! IT'S SNOWING ..